

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 /075 W

----- 020010

R 231259Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3407

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0553

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF INSURGENT ATTACK ON ASMARA

REF: ASMARA 0550 (211835Z JUN 75)

1. LIFE IN ASMARA, IN WAKE INSURGENT JUNE 21 ATTACK CONTINUES
RELATIVELY RELAXED TENOR. I TOURED CITY AND ENVIRONS MORNING
AFTER ATTACK AND, EXCEPT FOR IMMEDIATE VICINITY NAVY HDQTRS
(TRACT A) WHERE ARMED PATROLS ACTIVE AND CHECK POINTS ESTABLISHED,
TOWN APPEARED NORMAL. LARGE CROWD OBSERVED OUTSIDE LOCAL POLICE
STATION NEAR TRACT A. EVIDENTLY CONSISTED OF PERSONS INTERCEPTED
IN VICINITY TRACT A AND BEING QUESTIONED AS WELL AS RELATIVES OF
THOSE BEING HELD. IN DOWNTOWN AREA, SHOPS OPEN AS USUAL AND NORMAL
SUNDAY MORNING SHOPPERS ACTIVE. NO UNUSUAL CONCENTRATIONS OF SOLDIERS
EVIDENT. ATTACK DOUBTLESS AGITATED ARMY BUT APPEARS TO HAVE HAD
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LITTLE EFFECT OTHERWISE.

2. I HAVE EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT OF HARRASSMENT CIVILIAN PASSER
BY IN VICINITY TRACT A SUNDAY MORNING, WHICH
EVIDENTLY RESULTED IN SIEZURE AND SUMMARY EXECUTION OF UNLUCKY
VICTIM. IRREGULAR SERIES OF SHOTS AT TRACT A WELL INTO AFTERNOON
LEND CREDENCE TO VIEW THAT REPRISALS MIGHT HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE.
AT THIS TIME, INCIDENTALLY, NAVY OCCUPANCY TRACT A APPEARS TO BE
SHARED WITH AIR FORCE AND SOME 2ND DIV TROOPS.

3. WHILE JUNE 21 RAID HAS MADE IT CLEAR INSURGENTS STILL IN
BUSINESS, LITTLE ELSE WAS ACHIEVED EXCEPT TO PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR
REPRISALS. THE RAID FOLLOWED THE NOW STANDARD PATTERN AND CAN,
OF COURSE, BE REPEATED AT WILL. REPETITION, HOWEVER, CAN SERVE
TO FURTHER ERODE POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE INSURGENTS IF REPRISALS
CONTINUE.
SHERRY

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